[Translation]

Remunerative Prices to Farmers

612 SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a commitment under their Minimum Common Programme to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the Government in this regard, and

(c) the steps being taken to quicken implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) to (c) The Common Minimum Programme envisages that measures will be taken to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce. One of the main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The Government announces each season minimum support price for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. While fixing minimum support prices it is ensured that it covers cost of production and also provides a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved technology. The farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market at prices which may be higher than the support prices fixed by the Government.

Government proposes to have a discussion with the leaders of the United Front what exactly they mean by the remunerative prices other than what it is at present.

Cases of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Cell

613 DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Cell are not filed by the Police Department in Ajamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to issue clear directives to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for filing the cases pertaining to Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Cell;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether even after filing the cases no arrest is made; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (e) Even though, as per provisions in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, the Central Government has been drawing the attention of the State Governments/ UT Administrations, from time to time, to the problems of weakers sections of the society.

[English]

Conversion of Metre Gauge Line

614 SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Narrow Gauge/Metre Gauge line in the West Bengal is proposed to be taken up for conversion into broad gauge during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ram Janam Bhoomi

615 SHRI E. AHAMED
SHRI G.G. SWELL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the various Muslim Organisations including the All India Muslim Personal Law Board on Ram Janam Bhoomi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Representations on Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute are being received from various organisations by Government from time to time.

(b) and (c) As the specific point concerning the representations has not been spelt out, it is not possible to furnish the details and the Government's stand thereon. However, following the judgement dated 24th October, 1994 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, the Central Government, as a statutory receiver, is maintaining the status-quo in the disputed area.